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NPIC/TSG/RED-200/70  
17 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Group, NPIC

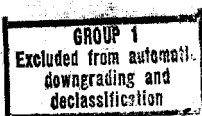
SUBJECT : PPBS Comments on the [ ] Imagery Interpretation Program for FY-71

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1. As a part of their functioning, the Planning, Programming and Budgeting Staff has the responsibility for reviewing RED's R&D programs and commenting to the Executive Director. In line with this responsibility, they normally include recommendations to the Executive Director which are forwarded along with each of our project approval requests. We often do not see these and, normally, we make no comments on the contents of such memoranda. We do, however, feel that the memorandum on the [ ] Imagery Interpretation Program contains a number of errors and misconceptions.

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2. PPBS representatives, in their preliminary discussions with Group/Staff representatives, noticed what appeared to them to be a lack of enthusiasm for the [ ] effort, and concern that some of the tasks were not in response to actual needs. Between their investigation and the final program decisions, these doubts were resolved with the Group Chiefs involved by detailed discussions and changes in the work statement included in the final PAR. RED believes this accounts for the fact that no negative comments were expressed at the final briefing for the Executive Director. Only one or two minor points, such as that involving [ ] of PHD, where examples of tasks were construed as actual tasks in the consultation section, remained to be coordinated and were corrected in the final PAR.

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3. PPBS further stated that the subject effort consisted of a contract for miscellaneous services and that it is a collection of unrelated tasks with unclear purposes and indefinite applications to our PI system. The applications and their overall relationships to NPIC's requirements, along with a complete explanation of their interrelationship, were thoroughly explained during the above-mentioned coordination sessions. PPBS was, of course, invited to these sessions. The operating groups themselves asked that a flexible contractual vehicle be provided for them to obtain quick-reaction consultation and experimentation support without definitizing tasks at this time.



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4. PPBS is not convinced that the [ ] is the only company capable of offering us assistance in these areas. This is true, both [ ], have certain capabilities in these areas, and we have taken definitive steps to utilize their services. RED will continue to seek out new contractors in this area; however, no company--that we are aware of--has [ ] overall capability at this time. We will continue to expand our contractual resources in the imagery interpretation research area commensurate with effective uses of the necessary high-level clearances involved in the hope of developing a competitive environment.

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5. PPBS believes that the program should be divided into clearly defined subprograms such as training, image quality, advance viewing concepts, and handling by individual contracts, not necessarily all with [ ]. They feel that we may have too much total reliance on [ ]. They further state that, in this regard, we feel that the expertise devoted to managing this program and monitoring the large [ ] contract might better be applied to some in-house efforts with assistance through smaller, more easily manageable contracts. To the best of our knowledge, the program is already divided into very clearly defined subcategories, and it is not a foregone conclusion that managing a smaller number of isolated tasks with different contractors is more efficient than managing large, integrated programs. One of the obvious considerations is the PI support required in all these tasks, and that many small contractors could pester IEG to death relative to obtaining necessary actuate orientation of their activity. Furthermore, while we would like to handle more of this work on an in-house basis, the present restriction on T/O precludes this. We have constantly requested additional T/O help in this area, but have been unsuccessful.

6. The Research & Engineering Division also has some reservations about becoming overly dependent upon a single contractor and, while we are very desirous of expanding our competitive sources, we do not feel that this is a feasible alternative until such time as we find, or develop, other sources capable of providing the same quality of work. PPBS further recommends that the effort in this program be redirected in FY-72. We would also concur. We redirect the effort in all of our programs on a yearly basis.

[ ]  
Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSG

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